

CLATSOP COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# NEWSLETTER

Burton J. Williams, Director



## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Someone once philosophically stated that change is the only constant in life. This statement, of course, contains something of an internal contradiction. But one thing is for certain with no fear of contradiction, we do not and cannot predict the future. It's a blessing that we are not prophets, for who really wants to know what the future holds. Our task here at the Clatsop County Historical Society involves planning for the future to be sure, but the fundamental reason for our being is to penetrate the past, to recapture our history, to breathe life into our yesteryears.

As a historian I have spent most of my adult life pursuing the past, which I love to do, and I have tried to do that as your Executive Director here at the CCHS. However, for personal reasons I have chosen to direct my efforts elsewhere, and I have resigned my position effective April 1, 1988. This means change, for me and for your society. But remember - change is that contradictory constant I mentioned earlier.

I take a measure of pride in our accomplishments during my short tenure as your director: our Heritage Center restoration project is nearing completion, our Board of Directors has expanded its membership, a new Code of Professional Ethics (personnel policy) has been adopted; revisions to our By-Laws have been made, our operating budget has been revised, a mini gift shop is shaping up in the Heritage Museum, exhibits are in place; grants have been written, attendance is growing, and planning is underway for the future. For all of this I am indebted to our paid staff, our dedicated volunteers, and to our Board of Directors.

Though my time of service here has been short, I hope it is remembered not for its brevity, but for its quality. As for me I have already experienced a tumult of memories as I reflect on my service as your director; of the incidents of my efforts so intimately associated with all of you, our triumphs and defeats, our sorrows and exultations, all soon to end like the annals of a dream.

But, as a favorite character of mine from the distant past once wrote, "What is the use of sniffing about it! We must go, and all of us sooner or later. Let us make our exit with easy grace and dignity, and not like a boor, ignorant of how to leave the room without tripping on the door mat."

May the future of the Clatsop County Historical Society be as rich and rewarding as its past. Goodbye and best wishes to all of you.

## CAN YOU HELP OUR FRIENDS?

135 years ago the immigrants traveling to Oregon Territory and taking the "Elliott Cut-off" (also known as the "Lost Wagon Train of 1853") arrived in Lane County after a circuitous route across the Oregon desert and near fatal journey across the Cascades.

To commemorate their arrival, the Lane County Historical Museum is planning a reunion of the descendants of these families to be held in the museum courtyard, September 24, 1988.

The museum is searching for descendants of these immigrants. For more information write: LWT, C/O Lane County Historical Museum, 740 West 13th, Eugene, Oregon, 97402 or call Marty West at 687-4239.



## CALL FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

In an effort to involve our members more in the activities of the CCHS, the Board of Directors is calling for volunteers from the Membership to serve on several standing committees. The committees in need of volunteers from the membership are: Oregon Dixieland Jubilee Committee, Grounds Committee, Museum Exhibits Committee, Nominating (for Board membership) Committee, Flavel House and Heritage Center Building Committee, and the Publications Committee.

If you are interested in serving on one of these committees please drop us a note, or call us at 325-2203. Not knowing the number of responses we will receive (it may be a large number) it is impossible to assure you that you will be appointed to a committee as we do not want our committees to become too large and unwieldy. But - if you have an interest and would like to become more involved in the work of your society, please contact us at your earliest convenience. Also, we will be happy to respond to any questions you may have.

And we always need more volunteers to serve as docents in either the Flavel House or the Heritage Center Museum.

## NOTES FROM THE ARCHIVES

Now available at the Heritage Center: "Donation Land Claim Abstracts, Clatsop County, Oregon". This new CCHS publication lists abstracts filed in the Oregon City land office and includes an index and reference map. The cost is \$4.00, plus \$1.00 for postage and handling if ordering by mail.

A big thank you to Jim Dennon and Liisa Penner for their contributions to this project - time and energy!

Do you have an eye for detail? Do you have a knack for recordkeeping? Are you free Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 a.m. to noon? A few volunteers are needed in the CCHS archives to work on accession records and files, etc. Call Judi Byrd at 325-8395 if you'd like to join us.

## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

March 27, 1988      2 - 4 p.m.  
Sunday

Fashion presentation and tea at the Flavel House with fashions from Victoriana and CCHS collection selections. R.S.V.P. 325-2203

April 20, 1988  
Wednesday

Another Bruce Berney "SURPRIZE" monthly membership luncheon. Please watch and listen as the "details are revealed".

Currently to ?

The "Steam Whistle Logging" video/tape is being shown continuously at the Heritage Center Museum. Please stop by and view this marvelous show.

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